

Revolution in Warfare in the 21st century



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Revolution in Warfare in the 21st century: the Redesign of Military Doctrine



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Introduction

The stalemates in Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq, and Syria clearly show how the traditional methods of warfare no longer apply in an interconnected world of interdependent supply chains across nations, real-time social media-driven popular reaction crossing borders, and effective and low-cost customized weaponry based on freely-available commodity components. The rise and longevity of terrorist organizations, in the face of and despite the overwhelming numerical and volume superiority of organized armed forces using traditional warfare methods, clearly show how these environmental realities sustain new approaches to warfare that are collectively capable of neutralizing traditional warfare methods leading to persistent, protracted instability with no clear resolution of conflicts.

These new approaches to warfare by terrorist forces require a strategic response - the redesign of military doctrine to a new paradigm that can effectively and efficiently stem the tide of terrorism and over the long-term lead to a new equilibrium of peace and stability globally. This new doctrine is called the "Unification of Purpose".

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Concept

The “Unification of Purpose” is a doctrine based on the parallel integrated activation in real-time of manpower, logistics, and intelligence in multiple, independent small combat units, the combined actions of which combine to achieve an overall general objective. It is diametrically opposed to the traditional “Unity of Command” approach in traditional military doctrine. It is different from the current “Air-Land-Sea” doctrine of the U.S. military but has similarity in its emphasis on aggressive logistics. It has similarity to guerrilla warfare and the “cell”-based methods of modern terrorists in terms of independence of its combat units but is different from these methods because of the higher degree of preparation and leverage of the logistic and intelligence environments to ensure the combat units can operate effectively and efficiently. It is unique in its use of swarm or distributed intelligence techniques in achieving its objectives.

Characteristics

The “Unification of Purpose” doctrine, UOP for short, has the following characteristics:

The skills and experience of personnel are high but are varied:

Personnel are highly-skilled and highly-experienced in a variety of areas. The multiplicity/variety of skill and experience areas raises to the next level the effectiveness of the individual combat unit because of its inherent flexibility – which enables it to dynamically adjust to rapidly-changing battle conditions. Rather than the standard skills common to traditional and even guerrilla units, this variety of skills and experiences complements and reinforces the capability to advance faster to meeting its objective.

Use of logistics available in the field through solid understanding of supply chain:

The UOP approach to logistics combines the following aspects:

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- An integrated supply chain based on supply chain physics principles. This dynamically and optimally attempts to deploy owned or friendly resources whenever and wherever needed.
- Because the integrated supply chain offers no 100% guarantee of resource availability, this is supported by “opportunistic logistics” – the use of enemy or neutral resources available. This requires an understanding of how to use these resources.
- Both the integrated supply chain and opportunistic logistic methods are supported by information and communications technology capability – the former by an integrated supply chain system, the latter by using intelligent software agents searching the Internet and feeding resources information to the combat unit’s local resource locator software.

Use of ground and social network-based intelligence:

The UOP doctrine leverages ground/local intelligence gathered. To augment this, UOP utilizes social network-based intelligence. Social networking sites are scanned through software agents for intelligence on resources, targets, threats, and opportunities. This rich mine of information enables the combat unit to acquire vital intelligence without the need to connect to a centralized intelligence network, thereby minimizing compromise of its mission through electronic counter-surveillance by enemy forces. Coded messages via social networks are harder to track and decipher than messages known to utilize a defined intelligence channel.

Use of configurable weapons:

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The UOP doctrine introduces the use of configurable weapons. Configurable weapons are weapons made from commodity components generally commercially available. These weapons are improvised. They are effective because they can be hidden as unremarkable components until they are constructed close to the time they are used. Thus, the combat unit masks its offensive arsenal until the final moment it strikes. Examples of such weapons are IED's and commercial drones.

Swarm intelligence:

The combat units of the UOP doctrine behave and converge toward an objective not through a central set of orders distributed to each unit but through a set of heuristics guiding their behaviour vis-à-vis other friendly combat units, enemy units, neutral forces, and targets as defined by the general objective. Thus, the mission cannot be compromised based on a single piece of information or a single act of the unit. The objective becomes apparent only when the combined effects of the multiple combat units result in a significant degradation of enemy capability.

Components

UOP components, based on the characteristics above, comprise:

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- Independent combat units of 4 personnel – one each for logistics, intelligence, weapons, and penetration. This is the smallest optimal mix of roles to achieve a mission with impact.
- Field logistics information – this is needed to understand the supply chain of targets, usable mission resources, and mission risks readily available in the area of operation.
- Ground and social network-based intelligence – this is needed to ensure targets, timing, and resources are calibrated properly to ensure maximum impact.
- Configurable weapons – these are weapons made of commodity components available in the operations area which can be configured for purpose and which minimize visibility of weapons movement that could compromise mission execution.
- Combat interaction heuristics/protocols – rules and messages that coordinate multiple combat units into a swarm with a singular effect.

Conclusion

The new threats to modern society and civilization from the disaggregated yet persistent forces of terrorism require a new military doctrine to preserve peace and human progress. The “Unification of Purpose”/UOP doctrine is an effective and efficient approach to winning against these threats. Where traditional doctrine has resulted in stalemates, UOP will deliver a relentless swarm of forces capable of defeating both traditional and non-traditional enemy forces.

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